

Message Text

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ORIGIN HUD-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, UR, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-U.S.S.R. HOUSING AGREEMENT: ACTIVITIES UNDER
WORKING GROUP 10.03

REF: STATE 75399

1. REQUEST EMBASSY TRANSMIT ASAP TO TERENTIEV OF GOSSTROY
FOLLOWING LETTER OF APRIL 27 FROM LAWRENCE SIMONS, U.S. CO-
CHAIRMAN OF WORKING GROUP 10.03, TO IVAN ISHCENKO, U.S.S.R.
CO-CHAIRMAN. ORIGINAL AIR POUCH TO EMBASSY.

"DEAR MR. ISHCENKO:

MAY I REFER TO MY LETTER OF MARCH 21, 1978, WHICH WAS ALSO
TRANSMITTED TO YOU THROUGH OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW ON MARCH
23, CONCERNING THE NEXT MEETING OF OUR JOINT WORKING GROUP
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AND THE SPECIAL VISIT OF A GROUP OF SOVIET SPECIALISTS TO
THE UNITED STATES TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THE MANU-
FACTURE AND USE OF LIGHTWEIGHT ROOFING MATERIALS BASED ON
PETROLEUM.

FIRST, WITH RESPECT TO THE MEETING OF OUR JOINT WORKING
GROUP, WE HAVE NOT YET FIRMLY ESTABLISHED THE COMPOSITION

OF OUR DELEGATION. IT WILL, HOWEVER, CONSIST OF BETWEEN EIGHT AND ELEVEN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES. I WILL LEAD THE

DELEGATION, AND I WILL PROBABLY BE ACCOMPANIED BY MY DEPUTY, MS. MARILYN MELKONIAN. I HOPE TO BE ABLE TO ADVISE YOU OF THE REST OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PARTY BEFORE JUNE 1.

SECOND, WITH RESPECT TO THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF A GROUP OF SOVIET SPECIALISTS TO THE UNITED STATES, SINCE ONLY THREE WEEKS REMAIN UNTIL THE FIRST DATES WHICH I SUGGESTED, MAY 16 TO 28, AND WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED AN ANSWER TO MY PROPOSAL, I REGRET THAT WE WILL BE UNABLE TO ARRANGE THE VISIT FOR THE PERIOD JULY 4 THROUGH 16, EVEN THOUGH THE DAY OF ARRIVAL WOULD BE OUR MAJOR NATIONAL HOLIDAY. WE CANNOT MAKE FINAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN ITINERARY UNTIL WE HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT THE DATES WHICH WE HAVE SUGGESTED ARE ACCEPTABLE TO YOU. HOWEVER, WE HAVE TENTATIVELY ARRANGED FOR YOUR SPECIALISTS TO VISIT THREE PLANTS MANUFACTURING THESE MATERIALS IN THE AREA OF CLEVELAND, OHIO, SO THAT THE TIME SPENT IN TRAVEL WILL BE REDUCED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. WE WILL PROBABLY ALSO BE ABLE TO ARRANGE FOR THE GROUP TO VISIT SEVERAL CONSTRUCTION SITES WHERE THE ROOFING MATERIALS ARE BEING APPLIED.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHETHER THESE ALTERNATE DATES ARE ACCEPTABLE TO YOU. SINCERELY, LAWRENCE B. UNCLASSIFIED

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SIMONS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY."

2. DO NOT TRANSMIT THIS LETTER IF A SOVIET RESPONSE TO REFTEL WAS RECEIVED IN THE EMBASSY ON OR BEFORE COB TUESDAY, APRIL 18. INSTEAD, ADVISE HUD (HANCOCK) ASAP. SUBSTITUTE RESPONSE WILL THEN BE PREPARED.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP (10.03), ASSISTANT SECRETARY SIMONS HOPES TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE AND WILL BE PROCEEDING FROM LENINGRAD TO TOKYO VIA MOSCOW AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE STUDY TOUR. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MELKONIAN HOPES TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY HER FATHER. INFORMAL INQUIRIES TO ELICIT SOVIET REACTION TO THESE PLANS AND ASSISTANCE IN SECURING VISAS AND ACCOMMODATIONS WOULD BE APPRECIATED. VISIT IS SENDING SIDE PAYS, AND BOTH UNOFFICIAL VISITORS WOULD PAY ALL OF THEIR OWN EXPENSES. (EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS OF APPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONS OR INSTALLATIONS FOR STUDY YOUR VISITS IN TBILISI AND YEREVAN WOULD BE APPRECIATED. GROUP WILL PROBABLY NOT INCLUDE EXPERTS ON WOOD PRODUCTS, GAS-FILLED PLASTICS, OR FIRE RESISTANCE, ALTHOUGH THOSE PROJECTS WILL BE REPRESENTED.) VANCE

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